Patent claims

- 1. A method for controlling an air-conditioning system for a motor vehicle, having the following method steps:
- an air mass flow rate sensor (28) measures (10) the actual value of the air (26) flowing into the air-conditioning system (22), and
- means for increasing and/or decreasing the airflow are actuated (14-20), in order to adjust the actual value to a setpoint value for the entering airflow rate.
- 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air mass flow (26) into the air-conditioning system (22) is composed of a recirculated airflow (30) and an external airflow (32).
- 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, when there is an excessively low air mass flow into the air-conditioning system (22), the recirculated airflow (30) and/or external airflow (32) are increased.
- 4. The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a fan, which can be connected into the circuit for an increased air mass flow, is provided in an inlet duct for the external airflow (32).
- 5. The method as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that an adjustable flap (34), which can be adjusted in accordance with the required airflow rate, is provided in an inlet duct for the external airflow (32).

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- 6. The method as claimed in one of claims 3 to 5, characterized in that the air mass flow to the air-conditioning system (22) is controlled independently of the speed.
- 7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that proportions of recirculated airflow (30) and external airflow (32) are set by means of a recirculation flap (34).
- 8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that characteristic variables of the inflowing air mass flow rate are measured in the air mass flow (26) to the air-conditioning system (22).
- 9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the temperature and/or relative humidity in the air mass flow to the air-conditioning system are measured.
- 10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that one or more sensors (28), which each respond to a gas or a mixture of gases, are provided in the airflow (26) to the air-conditioning system (22).
- 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the sensors (28) respond to exhaust gas in the flow (26) to the air-conditioning system (22), and the proportion of external air (32) is reduced by actuating the flap (34).
- 12. A device for an air-conditioning system, having
- a suction element, via which one or more airflows are fed to the air-conditioning system, and
- an air mass flow rate sensor in the suction element which measures one or more airflows which

enter the air-conditioning system via the suction element.

- 13. The device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the suction element has an inflow line for recirculated air and an inflow line for external air.
- 14. The device as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the suction element has a diverter flap which sets the proportions of external air and recirculated air in the suction element to the air-conditioning system.
- 15. The device as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the air mass flow rate sensor is provided downstream of the diverter flap and upstream of the air-conditioning system.